

VACCINE CONVERSATION RESPONSE SCRIPT:

5-11

These scripts can be used in conversation with community members, and are based on reasons for not getting the vaccine. These are meant to be conversational and also offer the perspective of health and science. This document mixes FAQ with conversational scripts.

I'm NOT getting the vaccine because:

“COVID-19 vaccines are dangerous for children”

That is a concern many parents have, however, COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the most intensive safety monitoring in US history. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been rigorously tested and is safe and effective for adults and children. More than 11 million 12-17 year olds have already safely received the vaccine.

Children age 5 and older can now get a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Adolescents 12 and older get the same vaccine as adults. Children ages 5-11 get a version that is a smaller dose. It is given with a smaller needle made for children. It is actually 1/3 of the dose.

“COVID-19 vaccines alter children's DNA”

Actually, the genetic material in the **vaccines cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way**. All COVID-19 vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.

“COVID-19 vaccines are not necessary for children because the virus doesn't affect them”

We did hear a lot of that at the beginning of the pandemic. However, recent data shows **children represent about 14% of all COVID-19 cases in the U.S.**, and that number continues to rise. While it appears that severe illness due to COVID-19 is less common among children, experts are still unsure of the long-term impacts on their physical and mental health.

In addition, children under 21 make up about 25% of the U.S. population, which means **getting them vaccinated will help us get closer to community immunity.**

“A child is not able to get a COVID-19 vaccine before or after getting another vaccine”

Your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same visit. **You no longer need to wait 14 days between vaccinations.** New data has shown that the way our bodies develop protection after getting vaccinated and the possible side effects of vaccines are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines.